

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks responsive to the Office Action dated October 30, 2008, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants respectfully thank the Office for the indication that claims 97 and 102 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the independent claim in any intervening claims.

Applicants also respectfully thank the Office for withdrawing the previous prior art rejections. However, the Office has asserted new prior art grounds for rejection against claims 77-79, 83, 85-87, 89, 93-96, and 98-101 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Alonso in view of Debbey in view of Huizer and Robinett.

Applicants have herein incorporated the limitations of merely objected to claim 97 into independent claim 77. Particularly, claim 97 depended from claim 96, which depended from claim 93, which depended from claim 77. Applicants have herein also incorporated the limitations of claims 96 and 97 into claim 77. Applicants have further canceled claims 96 and 97. However, Applicants have not inserted the limitations of claim 93 into independent claim 77. Specifically, it does not appear that the limitations contained in intervening claim 93 are relevant to the Office's basis for patentability of former claim 97.

Accordingly, claim 77 and its dependent claims 78-80, 83, and 90 3-95 should now be allowable form in accordance with the Office Action of October 30, 2008.

Applicants have further amended independent claim 85 to include the limitations of merely objected to claim 101 and cancelled claim 101. Claim 101 depended from claim 98, which depended from claim 85. However, again, it does not appear that the limitations of claim 98 are relevant to the Office's basis for patentability of former claim 101.

Accordingly, claim 85 and all of its dependent claims, namely, claims 86-89, 98-100, and 102 should now be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date. If the Office does not issue a Notice of Allowance for the next Office Action, then, at a minimum, it should withdraw the finality of the October 30, 2008 Office Action and issue a new office action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Applicants' representative's Deposit Account No. 50-4364.

Date: December 29, 2008

Signature of Representative

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